Oil Exploration in the Konkan Belt

3448. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made in oil exploration in the Konkan belt in Thriuvanathapuram-Koilam region;

(b) whether the ONGC have any plan to open a regional office in Kerala;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which this office is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) Surface geological map and aerial photogeological studies have been carried out in the area. Gravity surveys have also been done along Kerala Coast by ONGC.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Oil Exploration by Foreign Oil Companies in India

3449. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many foreign oil companies have expressed their interest in oil exploration in India;

(b) whether he had held any discussions with them during his recent visit abroad; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Discussions were held with several foreign oil companies who showed keen interest in participating in the Fourth Round of bidding.

Cocount Plantation

3450. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total coconut production in the country during 1991-92, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to bring new areas in karnataka and Kerala under coconut planation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) As per the latest available official Statistics, the State-wise production of coconut during 1989-90 is under:-

State	*Production (million nuts)*
Andhra Pradesh	654.7
Assam	69.4
Goa	107.5
Karnataka	1158.7
Kerala	4394.0
Maharashtra	108.3
Orissa	113.7